

Finding the Best Sportsbooks Outside the US: A 2026 Guide for American Bettors

For years, American sports bettors have faced a frustrating reality. While domestic sportsbooks have expanded rapidly since the Supreme Court cleared the way for states to legalize sports betting, the options remain limited by state borders, restrictive odds, and sometimes clunky platforms. Many experienced bettors have quietly looked beyond the US for a better experience. Choosing the right sportsbook outside the US can open up better odds, more betting markets, and features that domestic sites simply don't offer. But it also comes with its own set of considerations, from payment methods to legal gray areas.

I have spent the better part of a decade testing offshore sportsbooks, both as a casual bettor and as someone who writes about the industry. I have lost deposits to slow payouts, gotten burned by shady terms, and also found a few operators that genuinely treat customers well. The landscape shifts constantly, especially as US regulations evolve and offshore platforms adapt. This guide reflects what I have learned about finding trustworthy sportsbooks outside the US in 2026, and what factors matter most when you are betting from American soil.

Why Look Beyond US Borders?

The simplest reason is choice. In the US, legal sportsbooks are confined to individual states, and each state has its own set of approved operators. That means you might only have access to two or three major books, and their odds are often identical because they use the same underlying data. Offshore sportsbooks, by contrast, compete on a global scale. They offer odds that can be noticeably better, especially on niche markets like international soccer or esports. They also tend to have higher betting limits and more flexible deposit options.

Another factor is market depth. If you want to bet on the Turkish Super Lig or a minor league cricket match, a domestic sportsbook likely won't carry those lines. A good offshore book will. For bettors who follow multiple sports or who enjoy finding value in obscure markets, the difference is night and day. I once found a line on a second-division Argentine soccer match that was mispriced by nearly 10% compared to the domestic offering. That kind of edge is hard to find when you are limited to US-only books.

Key Factors in Choosing an Offshore Sportsbook

Not all [sportsbooks outside the US](#) are created equal. Some are well-regulated in jurisdictions like the UK, Malta, or Curacao. Others operate from less reputable locales and may not have your best interests at heart. Here are the factors I weigh most heavily.



Licensing and Reputation

The first thing I check is where the sportsbook is licensed. A license from the UK Gambling Commission, the Malta Gaming Authority, or the Curacao eGaming licensing authority carries real weight. These regulators enforce standards around fair play, segregated player funds, and dispute resolution. If a site is licensed in a jurisdiction with no real oversight, I walk away. There are too many good options to risk your money on an unregulated operator.

Beyond the license, I look at how long the sportsbook has been operating and what real users say. Forums like Reddit's sportsbook communities can be useful, but take individual complaints with a grain of salt. A pattern of delayed payouts or frozen accounts is a red flag. I also check if the sportsbook has been blacklisted by any major sports leagues or payment processors. That is usually a sign they are playing fast and loose with the rules.

Payment Methods and Currency

One of the biggest headaches when using a sportsbook outside the US is getting money in and out. Many offshore books accept credit cards, but US-issued cards are often blocked. That is where e-wallets like Skrill or Neteller, and increasingly cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, come in. I have found that the best offshore books offer at least three deposit methods that work for US residents: credit card (with a workaround), a major e-wallet, and crypto. Withdrawal speed matters too. Some books process payouts in hours; others take a week. I have learned to test this with a small deposit and withdrawal before committing larger sums.

Odds Quality and Market Variety

Odds are the reason most of us bet offshore. I compare the odds on a few common bets, like NFL game winners or major NBA player props, across several offshore books. The best ones consistently offer better payouts than US books. But odds are not everything. A book might have great odds on NFL games but terrible coverage of European football. If you bet across many sports, look for a book that offers deep markets across multiple regions. Some offshore books also offer unique bet types like "request a bet" or live streaming of the event, which can enhance the experience.

Risks and Realities of Betting Offshore

Let's be honest about the downsides. Using a sportsbook outside the US comes with legal ambiguity. While federal law does not explicitly prohibit a US resident from placing a bet with a licensed offshore book, the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 can make it tricky. Some payment processors and banks will decline transactions to gambling sites. I have had credit cards flagged and accounts temporarily frozen. The workaround is usually to use a dedicated e-wallet or a cryptocurrency transfer, but that adds friction.

There is also the risk of the sportsbook shutting down or refusing payout. I have been burned twice by books that stopped paying after I hit a few big wins. That is why I only use books that have been around for at least five years and have a clean track record. I also never keep a large balance in the sportsbook's wallet. Withdraw profits as soon as they hit a reasonable threshold. That way, if the worst happens, you lose only what you intended to risk.

Practical Tips for Getting Started

If you are new to betting offshore, start small. Open an account with one or two well-regarded sportsbooks outside the us. I recommend looking for books that offer a generous welcome bonus but also have reasonable rollover requirements. A 100% match up to \$500 is great, but not if you have to wager the bonus 20 times before you can withdraw. Read the terms carefully.



Next, test the deposit and withdrawal process with a small amount. Deposit \$50, place a few small bets, and request a withdrawal. See how long it takes and whether any fees are deducted. This is your audition for the sportsbook. If they pass, you can confidently fund a larger balance. If they fail, you have only lost a small amount and can move on.

Finally, keep good records. Offshore sportsbooks are not subject to US tax reporting, but the IRS expects you to report gambling winnings as income. I keep a simple spreadsheet with dates, amounts, and the sportsbook name. It makes tax time much easier and protects you if there is ever a dispute about your winnings. Many experienced bettors also use a separate bank account or e-wallet for gambling funds, which helps with budgeting and record-keeping.

Looking Ahead: The Offshore Landscape in 2026

The market for sportsbooks outside the us continues to evolve. More states are legalizing sports betting, which could eventually reduce the appeal of offshore books for US residents. But for now, the offshore books still offer advantages that domestic ones cannot match: better odds on many markets, deeper coverage of international sports, and fewer limits on how much you can bet. The key is to choose wisely. Do your homework, start small, and never bet money you cannot afford to lose. The best offshore sportsbooks are legitimate businesses that treat customers fairly. The rest are traps. With a little care, you can find the ones worth your business.